

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### Difficulties in Obtaining Passports for Ukrainian Citizens

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, has received several recent reports of delays in issuance of passports to Ukrainian citizens. These delays can affect documentation of children adopted by American citizens. According to Ukrainian law, all adopted children need a valid passport in order to depart Ukraine.

The recent delays appear to be caused by a commercial dispute between the Government of Ukraine and its contractor. A sole source commercial entity produces the blue ("new") Ukrainian passport. However, in a number of recent cases, red cover ("old version") Ukrainian passports have been issued to Ukrainian children adopted by foreign citizens after some initial delays. These red cover passports are valid for travel, and enable the adopted children to depart Ukraine with their new parents.

Several adopting parents report that processing of final paperwork to obtain the alternative red cover passports was delayed. There are reports that additional fees were required for obtaining these older version red passports once the blue cover passports became unavailable. There is only a limited supply of the older version passports in stock nationally, and thus red cover passports may not be available at all local passport offices.

American citizens adopting Ukrainian children should be aware of this situation and plan accordingly.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv continues to monitor this situation closely.